

OVERLAND PASS PIPELINE PICEANCE LATERAL

APPENDIX 15

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROTECTION PLAN

PREPARED FOR:
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		<u>Page</u>
1.0	1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	<i>Purpose.....</i>	<i>1</i>
2.0	2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES.....	1
2.1	<i>OPPC.....</i>	<i>1</i>
2.2	<i>Contractor.....</i>	<i>1</i>
2.3	<i>Environmental Inspector.....</i>	<i>1</i>
3.0	3.0 PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.....	2
3.1	<i>Training.....</i>	<i>2</i>
4.0	4.0 MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.....	2
4.1	<i>Monitoring.....</i>	<i>2</i>
4.2	<i>Reporting.....</i>	<i>2</i>
5.0	5.0 DISCOVERY REQUIREMENTS.....	3

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Monitoring Locations

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Paleontological Resources Protection Plan (plan) describes protection measures to be taken by Overland pass Pipeline Company (OPPC) and its contractors (Contractor) to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to paleontological resources during construction and subsequent reclamation, restoration, and maintenance activities.

Measures identified in this plan apply to work within the project area defined as the right-of-way (ROW), access roads, temporary use areas, and other areas used during construction of the project.

OPPC and Contractor personnel are to be thoroughly familiar with this plan and its contents prior to initiating construction on the project.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to provide for the identification, evaluation, and treatment of paleontological resources that may be impacted as a result of construction of the project. This plan also defines the responsibilities and measures to preserve and protect paleontological resources during construction of the project. This plan was developed as the implementing document for relevant mitigation measures contained in the Environmental Assessment.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 OPPC

OPPC will employ standard operating procedures during construction to protect paleontological resources. OPPC will:

- Implement paleontological monitoring by a BLM-approved paleontologist during construction for project areas determined to be sensitive for paleontological resources.
- Include specific language in the Contractor's specifications regarding trespass on sites and procedures to be followed during unexpected discovery.
- Use procedures described in Sections 5.0 to deal with the inadvertent exposure of vertebrate or any scientifically-important invertebrate and plant fossils during construction.

The on-site contracting paleo monitor (with current BLM paleo permit) will be able to determine the significance, mostly ahead of time, with what might be encountered.

2.2 Contractor

The Contractor will be responsible for following the project procedures and requirements defined in this plan during and after the exposure of paleontological resources. The Contractor will be responsible for providing OPPC's Environmental Inspector with adequate advance notification (72-hour minimum notice) of construction activities so that paleontological monitors can be deployed where required.

2.3 Environmental Inspector

OPPC's Environmental Inspector will monitor daily construction activities, and is responsible for ensuring pipeline construction activities comply with all applicable mitigation requirements, permit conditions, and environmental specifications relating to paleontological resources protection. This includes keeping track of construction activities and ensuring that monitors will

be on-site when construction activities require paleontological monitoring.

3.0 PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

3.1 Training

The Contractor will inform all crews of requirements relating to paleontological resource protection. All construction personnel who operate ground-disturbing equipment will receive special instruction on the types of fossils that may be encountered and the procedures to be followed if they encounter fossils. All construction and other employees present on the right-of-way will be informed of both the Environmental Inspector and Paleontological Monitor's authority to halt work. All personnel will be informed that they are subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing fossil localities, for collecting fossils, and for disclosing the location of the localities. Violation may result in removal from the project and/or may result in civil or criminal penalties.

4.0 MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Paleontological resource monitoring will be conducted by Paleontological Monitors to ensure that fossils are preserved and to ascertain whether construction may continue after the unexpected discovery of any vertebrate or any scientifically-important invertebrate and plant fossils.

4.1 Monitoring

Paleontological Monitors will monitor project construction as defined in the Paleontological Resources Report dated January 14, 2008. Areas of high paleontological potential should be monitored during pipeline constructions.

Monitoring includes several levels of inspection: (1) inspection of the ROW after it is graded; (2) inspection of the trench spoils after excavation and prior to lowering of the pipe; and (3) inspection of excavation during either grading and trench excavation or both. Areas requiring paleontological monitoring are also included in Attachment 1. This information should be transferred to ROW alignment sheets once the ROW route is finalized and specific mileposts are established.

If pipeline trench excavation or blasting occurs in underlying bedrock, the Paleo Monitor will be required to examine the trench and any rubble for fossils in a safe manner.

The Contractor is responsible for notifying OPPC's Environmental Inspector at least 72 hours in advance of areas requiring monitoring, so that paleontological monitors can be deployed where required. The Contractor will be responsible for all construction delays due to insufficient notification.

4.2 Reporting

Paleontological Monitors will document daily monitoring activities on daily monitoring report forms that will be delivered to the Environmental Inspector on a daily basis. The approved paleontologist will also provide the BLM with a monitoring report after the completion of the monitoring following the standards and schedule listed in the paleontology permit.

Paleontological monitoring results will be reported on a bi-weekly basis to the BLM Authorized Officer in a short letter report.

5.0 DISCOVERY REQUIREMENTS

If vertebrate fossils are discovered during construction, the Contractor will immediately stop all work near the discovery. The following steps will be implemented when vertebrate fossils are discovered:

- Cease all earth disturbing activity within 100 feet of the discovery.
- Contact the BLM Authorized Officer, Environmental Inspector, and Paleontological Monitor immediately. At the direction of the BLM, the Paleontological Monitor will assess the nature of the discovery and determine the necessary course of action. If necessary, the Paleontological Monitor will mark the area and recommend procedures to be implemented to avoid further site damage. OPFC will protect the discovery until removed.
- Construction will be allowed to resume once clearance is given by the Paleo Monitor after consultation with the BLM.

**ATTACHMENT 1
MONITORING LOCATIONS**

Paleontological Mitigation Recommendations
ONEOK Piceance Lateral Pipeline

MILEPOSTS	RECOMMENDATION
0 – 2	Spot inspection after trenching/prior to pipe being lowered into trench.
2 – 5	Spot inspection after initial ROW grading prior to trenching; Spot inspection after trenching/prior to pipe being lowered into trench.
5 – 12	Spot inspection after trenching/prior to pipe being lowered into trench.
12 – 19	Spot inspection after initial ROW grading prior to trenching; Spot inspection after trenching/prior to pipe being lowered into trench.
19 – 23	Spot inspection after trenching/prior to pipe being lowered into trench.
23 – 26	Spot inspection after initial ROW grading prior to trenching; Spot inspection after trenching/prior to pipe being lowered into trench.
26 – 46	Spot inspection after trenching/prior to pipe being lowered into trench.
46 – 49	Monitor ROW blading and all trenching activity.
49 – 62	Spot inspection after trenching/prior to pipe being lowered into trench.
62 – 64	Spot inspection after initial ROW grading prior to trenching; Monitor trenching/prior to pipe being lowered into trench.
64 – 94	Spot inspection after trenching/prior to pipe being lowered into trench.
94 - 115	Monitor disturbed bedrock after trenching
115 – 125	Spot inspection after trenching/prior to pipe being lowered into trench.
125 – 127	Monitor ROW blading and all trenching activity.
127 – 142	Spot inspection after trenching/prior to pipe being lowered into trench.
142 – 143	Monitor ROW blading and all trenching activity.
143 – Termination	Spot inspection after trenching/prior to pipe being lowered into trench.